GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2425
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
WITHDRAWAL OF MONEY
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of frauds and fraudulent withdrawal of money from Post Offices in the country particularly in Punjab has been reported during the last three years as on date; State-wise

(b) the details of amount lost through such frauds;

(c) the number of officials found guilty in this regard;

(d) the actions taken/being taken by the Government against them; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent the fraudulent withdrawal of money from the Post Offices in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c) The State-wise detail including that of the State of Punjab of number of cases of frauds and fraudulent withdrawals of money reported during last three years, amount lost in such cases and number of officials found guilty therein is given in the Annexure.

(d) 1756 officials were placed under suspension/put off duty, 629 officials were dismissed /removed from service, 105 officials were compulsory retired from service. Punishment of recoveries from pay have been awarded to 1891 officials and 1549 officials have been awarded with other punishments. Disciplinary cases against 1947 officials are under process. The cases have also been reported to police and CBI as per the prevailing instructions of the Department.

(e) Besides the regular Administrative, Internal Check and Audit Inspections of fixed periodicity, the Central Checking Squads at Regional, Circle and Postal Directorate levels keep a tight vigil over malpractices by surprise visits to Post Offices. Further, a number of preventive measures such as
(i) supply of web enabled 'Negative List' of lost/stolen Cash Certificates for verification before payment,
(ii) involvement of Administrative Offices in verification of requests for encashment of Cash Certificates received for payment at office other than the office of issue,
(iii) payment of maturity claims of Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) by account payee cheque for all cases of Rs. 20000/- and above,
(iv) banning of Authorized Agents as messengers in POSB payments,
(v) strict implementation of tenures, banning repeat tenures in the same office and special integrity checks for officials manning single handed Post Offices,
(vi) second inspection of 'bad offices' by officers not from the same Sub-Division,
(vii) controlling access of unathorized persons including Authorized Agent to internal working areas of Post Offices and strenghening the computer access security through stricter regima of custody of passwords,etc. are already introduced.